

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DISINVESTMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4773

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN DISINVESTMENT OF AIR INDIA

VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned `A-I sale caught in Ministry War` published in the Hindustan Times (Delhi edition) dated June 29, 2001;
- (b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the bidder, the Hindujas had complained to the Government about lack of transparency in the disinvestment process; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are no differences between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Disinvestment in the process of disinvestment in Air India. All the issues relating to valuation of the bilaterals of Air India and finalisation of the shareholders agreement were discussed and sorted out in the meetings of the Inter Ministerial Group consisting of representatives of several Ministries including the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Department of Disinvestment.
- (c) & (d) The points raised by the Hindujas about the transparency of the disinvestment process have been duly clarified to them.